

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY **REGION III** 1650 Arch Street

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

In Reply Refer To: 3AP12

JAN 1 0 2001

CERTIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Coleen M. Davis USX Corporation/U.S. Steel Division Clairton Works 400 State Street Clairton, Pennsylvania 15025-1855

Re: USX Request for Alternative Schedule dated November 13, 2000

Dear Ms. Davis:

The Philadelphia Regional Office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region III) has received and reviewed your letter, dated November 13, 2000, requesting an alternative schedule for the completion of 13 and 14 battery collector main repairs. The Company is instituting a cladding process which entails welding metal plates for fixing the collector main leaks caused by topside corrosion at these two batteries. The repairs are to be completed in the second quarter of 2001 according to recent estimates as the permanent repair will take fifteen (15) weeks to complete due to the nature of the main deterioration.

As provided for under Section 63.308(d), "the owner or operator shall initiate a collecting main repair as expeditiously as possible, but no later than 5 calendar days after initial detection of the leak. The repair shall be completed within 15 calendar days after initial detection of the leak unless an alternative schedule is approved by the Administrator." Due to the nature of the corrosion problem and the determination that this cladding process is the best means for affectuating a permanent repair for the coke oven gas leakage from the collector main, based on the Company's best information and belief, EPA Region III, hereby, approves an alternative schedule, as provided for under Section 63.308(d), giving USX Corporation additional time for the repairs. The collector main rehabilitation program shall be completed as soon as possible but in no event shall any stage of the work be completed later than May 31, 2001 to completely repair the collector main leaks at the Clairton Works batteries 13 and 14. USX will continue to conduct the regular collector main inspections throughout the repair period as required by Section 63.308(a) and all other requirements of the Rule will remain in effect as written in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-438-2474

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the alternative schedule for the indicated collector main repair program may result in a civil action for a permanent or temporary injunction, assessment and recovery of a civil penalty or both.

Should you have any comments or questions in regard to this matter, please contact James W. Hagedorn, of my staff, at (215) 814-2161.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Katz, Director Air Protection Division

cc: Sandra Etzel, Allegheny County Health Department

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